

SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE IS PROVEN TO BE STRONGER THAN COMPETING SPECIES

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Over the past decade, the United States has faced increasing competition in overseas markets from lower quality, lower cost wood from countries like Brazil and Chile. Although our prices are sometimes higher, the consistently high standards and quality of U.S. products are recognized worldwide and have therefore kept U.S. suppliers competitive. A recent British study called "Testing of Six Softwood Species, Part I: Summary of Physical Properties" has proven yet again that the strength, durability, and hardness of U.S. wood products are superior to others.

The study, done by Trada Technology, tested the mechanical properties of six different softwood species. The study tested the impact bending and hardness of Chilean and New Zealand radiata pine, Brazilian Elliotis pine, European redwood, European whitewood and Southern Yellow Pine.

In tests for hardness, which was defined as resistance to indentation by a steel ball, Southern Yellow Pine was found to be significantly harder than all other tested species except for New Zealand radiata pine. In tests for impact bending and density, Southern Yellow Pine was found to be significantly stronger and denser than all five of the other species. This research provides evidence from an objective third-party that products made out of Southern Pine are less susceptible to dents, scratches, and other signs of wear. To consumers, that means that it is better suited for such uses as flooring, furniture, and other applications where durability is important.

* Sources: Southern Forest Products Association and Trada Technology